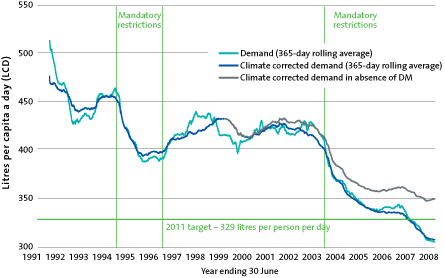
**Information from SYDNEY WATER about Water Usage.**

***The information in black is from Sydney Water and the information in green is my analysis of the information and graphs and my own information***

**Houses and businesses are using about the same quantity of water now as they did in the start of the 1970s. This is despite an increase in population of over 1,300,000 people.** **This means that the water used per person has been reduced since the 1970’s.**

Sydney Water's Operating Licence 2005-2010 requires that drinking water demand be reduced to 329 litres a person a day by 2010-11, a 35% reduction from the 1991 baseline. Based on current population estimates, this is a reduction target of almost 533,670 million litres a year by June 2011.

In 2007-08, total demand was 306 litres a person a day, down from 328 litres in 2006-07. This figure includes savings from water restrictions. It is estimated that without restrictions, demand would have been 378 litres a person a day, down from 389 litres a day in 2006-07 and 400 litres a day in 2005-06.

**This graph shows the Daily water demand per capita   
from 1991–2008**  


Notes:   
Note 1. Climate conditions have a strong influence on levels of customer water use. Climate correction adjusts data to account for weather conditions that are significantly above or below the seasonal trend.  
Note 2. DM - demand management

As you can see, since 1991, the water usage per person has had its ups, but **overall has gone done by approximately 200 litres per person per day**. Isn’t this amazing!!!! There has been a huge drop of water usage from 2003 onwards (and there was one from 1994 to 1996) because of Mandatory Restrictions. Mandatory means ‘Compulsory’. Mandatory restrictions are laws that stop people using too much water. These restrictions include only being able to water your garden on Wednesday and Sunday before 10am or after 4pm. These times were chosen because during the hottest part of the day a lot of the water would evaporate before sinking into the soil. The other main restriction is not being able to use a hose to wash your car because it wastes too much water. It seems that although people saving water of their own accord has lead to a good reduction in water use, mandatory restrictions also make a big difference.

**Total volume of drinking water saved per year on account of DEMAND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS**

During **2007-08**, Sydney Water's customers made significant efforts to use water efficiently. This brought **total savings for 2007-08 to 76,163 million litres.**

These water savings are mainly from Sydney Water’s **Demand Management Programs** which are:

* a range of water recycling programs (6,652 million litres)
* residential indoor and outdoor water efficiency programs. (16076 million litres)

This includes:

\*encouraging people to install water saving shower heads and other water saving devices

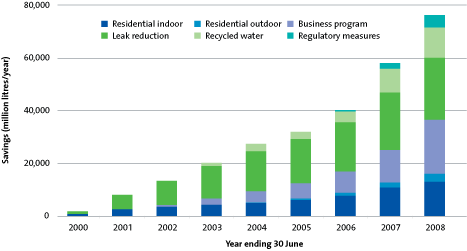
\*encouraging people to turn off the tap while they are brushing their teeth

\*the government giving rebates (partial refunds) to people if they install water tanks in their yards or buy a front loading washing machine that uses less water.

\*encouraging people to plant plants that don’t need much watering to sustain them and to use mulch in their gardens to hold in the moisture so that they don’t have to water their plants as often.

* the Every Drop Counts (EDC) Business Program (19,538 million litres)
* reductions in leaks from Sydney Water's water supply system (more than 23,000 million litres)
* the community's positive response to water restrictions. This means that most people have been following the water restrictions instead of secretly watering their garden at the wrong time.

**Total drinking water savings achieved from demand management programs since 1999 are 276,823 million litres.** These savings have been achieved at a cost of $373 million.

**This graph shows Savings from demand management programs from 2000 to 2008**   
  
  


In the last 9 years water savings have gone from 0 to 80,000 million litres a year. In 2008 household water savings (water tanks, front loading washing machines, water-saving shower heads, people trying to have shorter showers, etc) made up about ¼ or 25% of the water saved (almost 20000 million litres). This is not including water saved because of mandatory water restrictions.

**BY MATTHEW CLIFFORD**